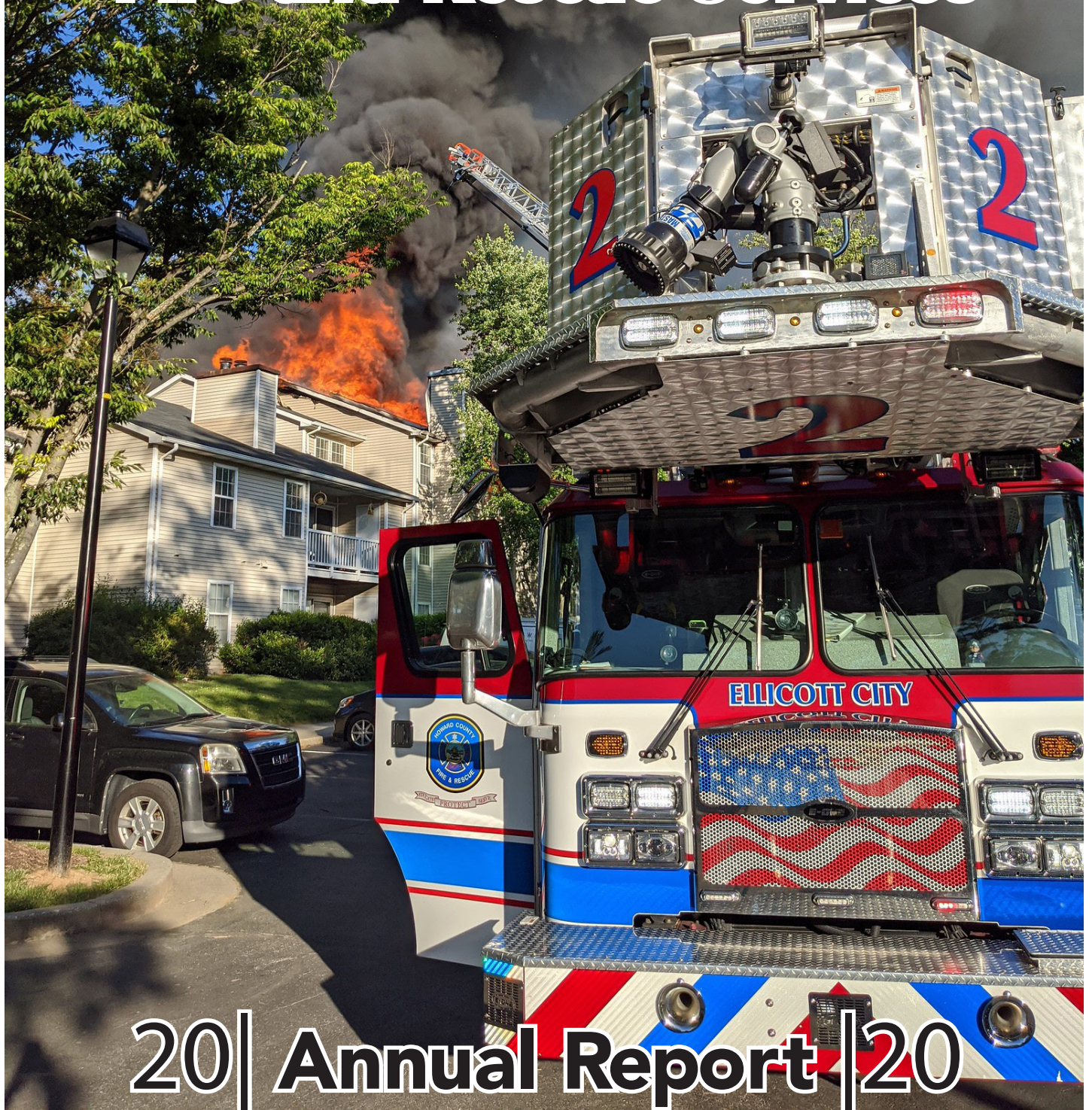


Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services





**From County Executive
Calvin Ball:**

Howard County is home to one of the best fire departments in our nation. If this past year has proven anything – it's that we have a team of emergency responders who are professional, dedicated to our community, and committed to public service.

The Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services (HCDFRS) has been on the frontlines responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, and we could not be more grateful for the adaptability and hard work of our team. Thanks to partnerships with private providers and our fire stations, we were able to quickly stand up additional COVID-19 testing locations for residents.

Moreover, our continued partnership with Howard County General Hospital led to new protocols to keep everyone safe, such as establishing hospital liaisons to assist with patient transfers and instituting a decontamination team to increase EMS transport turnaround time at the hospital.

Despite the pandemic, HCDFRS was also able to meet staffing goals and held two fire academies last year. As a resident and parent in Howard County, I am thankful for your efforts to consistently improve the department and cultivate positive relationships within our county.

I'm especially grateful to Chief William Anuszewski, who stepped into the role of Chief just as the pandemic unfolded and has continued to lead a coordinated response throughout this crisis and worked tirelessly to keep our paramedics and all responders safe. I'm also proud that by strictly adhering to proper protocols and guidance, not one fire and rescue employee contracted COVID-19 from work-related patient exposure.

I look forward to supporting Howard County Fire and Rescue in another year of creating a safe environment for all by protecting, educating, and serving all our residents and visitors.

CALVIN BALL
County Executive

A LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



Last year was a challenge for all of us, to say the least. As a department, we were forced to make changes on the fly, adopt new policies and practices to keep our members and residents safe, all while continuing to be a model of success for fire, rescue, and emergency services on a national level. I was honored to be named Fire Chief by Howard County Executive Calvin Ball in May of 2020 and to serve this great department which I've called home for over 30 years. We still face many challenges both nationally and locally, but my priority will remain on providing the best emergency service to the citizens and

visitors of Howard County, with a focus on the safety of our members.

The COVID-19 pandemic has kept us all apart physically but, in a way, has brought us closer together as we strengthen our personal and professional relationships. I want to recognize our continued partnerships with our friends in public safety, the Howard County Police Department and the Howard County Health Department who have been a valued resource as we navigate these trying times, together. Collectively, we, and many other Howard County Government departments and agencies, have supported County Executive Ball's pillars, particularly Safe and Engaged Communities and Thriving and Healthy Residents by ; safely and effectively providing emergency response, allocating resources, communicating to the public, and supporting the needs for public health. I continue to be impressed with our department's personnel: uniform, civilian, career, and volunteer as they remain flexible and adapt to change. We have embraced remote works sites, virtual learning for both our public education efforts and internal education systems and participating in drive-thru and drive-by events with our community. Though we are still in the midst of this pandemic, I am proud of the work we have accomplished and the direction we are headed.

Our annual report for calendar year 2020 will highlight our continued mission to educate, protect, and serve Howard County. My heart goes out to families who suffered tragedies and lost loved ones during 2020. You are not alone in your grief and your fire department family will always be here to assist.

I want to thank Howard County Executive Calvin Ball for his leadership and commitment to public safety and giving our team the ability to be innovative in our approach to continue providing the best service to Howard County.

Stay safe and well,

WILLIAM ANUSZEWSKI
Fire Chief





Pictured: hospital liaison at Howard County General; Tower 10 participates in a birthday drive-by celebration; ambulance decontamination team member at the ready; Sparky and company handing out fire safety materials at the drive-thru Fire Prevention Expo; Rapid Response Team staffed by specially trained Mobile Integrated Community Health paramedics; firefighter donning personal protective equipment.

YEAR IN REVIEW: COVID-19 RESPONSE

RAPID RESPONSE TEAM: During the early stages of the pandemic, paramedics and firefighters met at HCDFRS headquarters to restock the Rapid Response Team (RRT) equipment and to provide a formal transition to each member. These teams responded to medical emergencies that had the potential to be COVID-19 incidents. Historically, the RRT functions as an infection control team by providing guidance and replacing personal protective equipment being used by first responders. The RRT concept has been utilized by HCDFRS for several incidents throughout the last decade, from severe weather events to suspicious package investigations.

MOBILE INTEGRATED COMMUNITY HEALTH: The department continues to work with community partners to include the hospital, the Health Department and Office of Aging and Independence to provide a home-based multi-disciplinary team to visit residents, establish patient-centered plans for improvement, and assist those most needing of care.

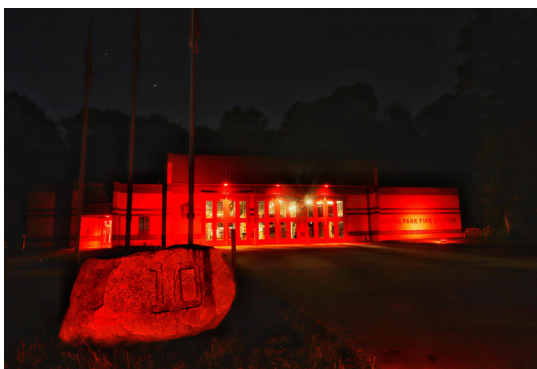
HOSPITAL LIAISON: A uniformed member served as hospital liaison in the emergency department (ED) of Howard County General Hospital, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The liaison notifies the ED staff of incoming patients, coordinates the EMS crews for room assignments, and ensures patient workflows are followed. Additionally, the liaison coordinates communication between ED clinical staff, ED leadership, and HCDFRS EMS Operations.

DECONTAMINATION CREW: When an ambulance arrives at the emergency room, the decontamination team cleans and disinfects the unit inside and out while the transport crew is transitioning the patient to the hospital staff. When the crew has completed the transfer, they arrive to a clean restocked unit and are able to quickly return to service to answer other calls.

TRAINEE CLASS 32 GRADUATES EARLY: 43 total recruits graduated and of that group 12 are paramedics. As directed by Howard County Executive Calvin Ball, after discussion with the Fire Chief, the trainees finished one week early in order to remain in compliance with the declaration issued by Governor Larry Hogan to help with the increased demand and immediate need for emergency assistance due to the COVID-19 response.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SHIFT: In order to adhere to social distancing guidelines, Community Outreach shifted to a virtual training model. Hands-only CPR and Stop the Bleed courses were made available online. The annual Fire Prevention Week Expo was adapted into a safe, drive-thru event and was met with an overwhelmingly positive response from the community.

EMS RESPONSE: 4390 PUI Contacts and 3747 PUI Transports in 2020. A "PUI" is a patient either considered or confirmed to have COVID-19; the criteria for PUI are set in accordance with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



Pictured, L-R: Fire Chief Anuszewski's swearing-in ceremony; Station 10, lit up red for Lt. Nate Flynn, and to honor the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation; Lieutenant Brad Scott; handing out fire helmets; THOAR training.

YEAR IN REVIEW

LT. BRAD "BOOBAH" SCOTT LINE OF DUTY DEATH: Brad served with HCDFRS for 13 years and was a proud graduate of Recruit Class 23. Brad had been a warrior in his battle with cancer, but was called home to rest on May 31, 2020. He spent most of his career at Banneker Station 7, where he was responsible for driving Engine 71 as a Firefighter/Heavy Vehicle Operator. Scott also volunteered at Claymont Volunteer Fire Department in his hometown of Claymont, Delaware. He is survived by his three daughters and wife, Charlene. Brad was posthumously promoted to the rank of Lieutenant effective May 25, 2020.

THOAR TRAINING: HCDFRS conducted Tactical High Risk Operational Academy Response or THOAR training over the course of several months in 2020. Training involved the use of a single engine paired with the medic unit. Personnel ran realistic scenarios at different acquired structures throughout Howard County, using artificial smoke and other tactics.

SECOND ANNUAL LT. NATE FLYNN FIREGROUND LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY HELD ONLINE: This year's presentations included Mayday and Rapid Intervention Team operations from the Woodscape Drive incident, provided by Lt. Josh Burchick. Additional topics covered effective coordinated fire attack in different fire structure environments. The courses were well attended in their online format.

STRATEGIC PLANNING: The purpose of a strategic plan is to identify and provide a collaborative process, with internal and external stakeholder input, that will offer a road map of the department's future by accomplishing organizational goals and visions. A well-crafted strategic

plan, guided by good management and executed by committed personnel, will translate to effective, efficient, and high-quality service being delivered. Due to COVID-19, HCDFRS was only able to host an external stakeholders group virtually, but will complete this undertaking in 2021.

EMS INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED: A common practice for EMS services nationwide, this program assists with cost recovery and service enhancement by charging a patient's insurance for medical services provided.

FIRE CHIEF'S SWEARING-IN: Chief Anuszewski was appointed Fire Chief of HCDFRS on May 25, 2020, but due to the ongoing pandemic, the swearing-in ceremony was delayed until October 21. Throughout his 30-year tenure, his roles included: Battalion Chief of Special Operations, Field Operations, Assistant Chief of Logistics and Assistant Chief of Administrative Services.

SPECIAL PROJECTS - IMPLEMENTATION MANAGEMENT: A contingent position was created to help with the management and implementation of improvements related to the department's integration of recommendations from both the ISRB and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health reports. Retired Deputy Chief Lou Winston was hired in July 2020 to manage this project. The department's examination of the recommendations is an evolving process and the goal is to be transparent with the progress throughout the continuous and ongoing response to these reports. HCDFRS delivered its first quarterly review of the ISRB report on November 5, 2020. The next quarterly review update is expected in February 2021.



Pictured, L-R: Firefighters battle barn fire in West Friendship; crews rescued Willie the hound from underneath a deck; MFF/HVO Wayne Sutphin salvages the American flag; two cats rescued from an apartment fire; Green Field apartment fire.



NOTABLE INCIDENTS OF 2020

OVER TWENTY APARTMENT UNITS DAMAGED IN COLUMBIA FIRE: MAY 31

Firefighters and paramedics were dispatched to the 11300 block of Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia for multiple reports of a multi-family occupancy fire. Crews arrived to find fire showing from three balconies on the rear of the structure. The residents were found to have safely evacuated prior to the arrival of HCDFRS. Six patients were evaluated by paramedics, and one patient was transported to Bayview for minor burns to the hand.

EXTENSIVE OVERHAUL REQUIRED FOR FULTON BARN FIRE: JULY 23

HCDFRS responded to a barn fire in the 11700 block of Scaggsville Road (Route 216) in Fulton. The incident required extensive overhaul and smoke was visible for many miles in the surrounding area.

CHILD RESCUED FROM LOCKED SAFE: AUGUST 18

Stations 4 and 13 were alerted for a child locked inside a safe. Crews arrived to find a large gun safe with a five-year-old child locked inside. During the extrication operation, air monitoring was performed. Access was accomplished in the rear wall of the safe. The child was evaluated and released to the parents and was in good spirits.

GREEN FIELD APARTMENT FIRE: AUGUST 25

Firefighters and paramedics responded to the 6300 block of Green Field Road in Elkridge for a report of a balcony fire. Upon arrival, crews found a fully involved 3 story garden-style apartment building with heavy smoke and fire showing from the rear of the structure. HCDFRS successfully rescued one cat and one guinea pig and supported their breathing with Pet Oxygen Masks. This story gained national recognition.

PROCOPIO CIRCLE TOWNHOUSES ABLAZE: OCTOBER 23

Crews arrived on location in approximately four minutes of the 911 call and reported heavy fire from two adjacent townhouses. The fire was extinguished in less than an hour. Two townhouses were extensively damaged and were posted as uninhabitable. Two additional townhouses received minor damage. In total, damage was estimated at \$1 million.

WEST FRIENDSHIP BARN FIRE: DECEMBER 5

HCDFRS was alerted for a working barn fire in the 13000 block of Frederick Road in West Friendship. The structure was fully involved upon arrival and a defensive operation began. Although no one was injured, the loss was significant for the owner: 40 sheep, 7 pigs, 3 cows, and a dog are presumed to have died in the blaze.

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES



OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF

Fire Chief William Anuszewski

The Office of the Fire Chief is comprised of personnel responsible for developing initiatives, providing oversight of daily activities, data analysis, and completing projects as directed by the Fire Chief. The Deputy Chiefs oversee specific areas of the department but work cooperatively across all facets. Each Deputy Chief reports directly to the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief and the Deputy Chiefs maintain effective communication regarding department business.

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Provides oversight of emergency and non-emergency medical clinical practice, training, planning, policies, and programs.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & MEDIA AFFAIRS

Manages public contact in terms of Public Information Act requests, community outreach and engagement, social media, media affairs, marketing, and special events. Coordinates with the County Public Information Office and provides the on-scene Public Information Officer function during emergency incidents. This office also develops and delivers comprehensive community risk reduction and outreach initiatives.



OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN

Represent various faiths as they participate in departmental and regional ceremonies, assist in making death notifications, and provides moral support and comfort to HCDFRS members and residents.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

In conjunction with the designated County Emergency Manager, this office is responsible for ensuring that the Emergency Operations Center is in a constant ready-state and continually prepares and maintains an Emergency Operations Plan, and other programs, in accordance with county, state, federal laws, and directives. The office is responsible for response and logistics, planning and accreditation, training and exercise, continuity and mitigation, and finance and corrective actions.



Pictured: (left) Chaplain Steve Stone speaks at the annual Honor and Remembrance ceremony; Medical Director Dr. Matt Levy and FF/P Frank Luchi during an emergency.



FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION COMMAND

Deputy Chief Robert Smeltzer

Finance/Administration Command ensures the efficient and effective function of departmental finance and administration, including policy and order alignment, consistent and equity-driven human resource systems, payroll, and budget.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

Responsible for administrative policies, human resources, legal coordination, grants and fiscal management, budget development, timekeeping, family hardship issues, procurement, corporate volunteer administrative processes, recruitment, and general administration.

LOGISTICS BUREAU

This bureau coordinates fleet rightsizing and maintenance, fire station and facilities maintenance, department capital budget projects, supplying uniforms, and personal protective equipment. The bureau maintains the Ground Support Unit, equipment, supply unit, and the self-contained breathing apparatus unit.



Pictured: Jonathan Shim promoted to Lieutenant; Fire Chief Christine Uhlhorn celebrates her retirement; Deputy Chief Lou Winston retires after 30 years with HCDFRS (photos taken pre-pandemic).



OPERATIONS COMMAND

Deputy Chief Gordon Wallace

Operations Command ensures the efficient and effective provision of field emergency and non-emergency operations, including fire, rescue, EMS, and all-hazards services.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BUREAU

Delivers safety-focused emergency services as well as develops, implements, and maintains emergency service policies and best practices, including Emergency Medical Services Operations, Mobile Integrated Community Health, Fire Suppression operations, Special Events and Mass Gathering operations, Emergency Operations Center support.

THE HOWARD COUNTY VOLUNTEER CORPORATIONS

These corporations have an elected or appointed Volunteer Fire Chief, volunteer operational officers, and volunteer members who are operationally authorized by the Fire Chief. The Volunteer Fire Chief and volunteer officers are responsible for the activities of the applicable corporation and are integrated into the department's emergency services operational chain of command. Each volunteer corporation has an elected or appointed president and board of directors who manage the corporate affairs of their respective corporation.



OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

Develops and administers the Fire Code and enforcement programs, as well as fire cause and origin determination. The Fire Marshal's Office is responsible for fire investigations, code enforcement and inspections, plans review and code development, and hazardous materials inspections.

2020 by the numbers:

2,871 Code Enforcement Inspections

3,018 Contractor Portal inspections

71 Fire Investigations

423 Fire Investigator Notifications

69 Canine Responses

147 Hazardous Materials Inspections



Pictured, L-R: The Baltimore Orioles stopped by Station 2 for hands-on training; arson accelerant detection canine, Sowell, with handler Captain Craig Matthews



PLANNING COMMAND

Deputy Chief John Jerome

Planning Command ensures the efficient and effective function of departmental planning, including data analysis, process improvement, and budgetary projections for operational and capital initiatives.

BUREAU OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Administers physical and emotional health programs. Additionally, develops safety, health and wellness programs, and related policies. Creates and facilitates prevention and educational programs including Occupational Safety, Health and Wellness, Risk Management coordination, mental and physical fitness, Nutrition Behavior Program, the Peer Support Team, and the Peer Fitness Team.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING BUREAU

This bureau is responsible for developing and administering education and training programs, compliance programs, officer development programs, trainee classes, and the maintenance of training records.



Training sections include all-hazards, emergency medical services, and community health, command, and leadership programs.

BUREAU OF TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Manages systems related to the Howard County Police Department 911 Communications Center, information technology, and other technology-based systems. Additionally, manages technology-based physical inventories, associated programs, policies, as well as performance standards.

2020 by the numbers:

2,159 Information Technology requests

39,740 Fire/Rescue/EMS-related calls to the Howard County 911 Center



Pictured, L-R: Trainee Class 33 graduation; Trainee Class 33 working on fire evolutions at the James N. Robey Public Safety Training Center.

ANNUAL AWARDS

The department recognizes its members that have gone above and beyond the call of duty. The awards ceremony honors firefighters and paramedics for their roles in high profile incidents throughout the calendar year.



Fire Officer of the Year
Captain/Paramedic
Brian Pickett



Firefighter of the Year
Firefighter/Heavy Vehicle Operator
Clayton Belle

Quality of Care: Firefighter/Paramedic Christina Castro

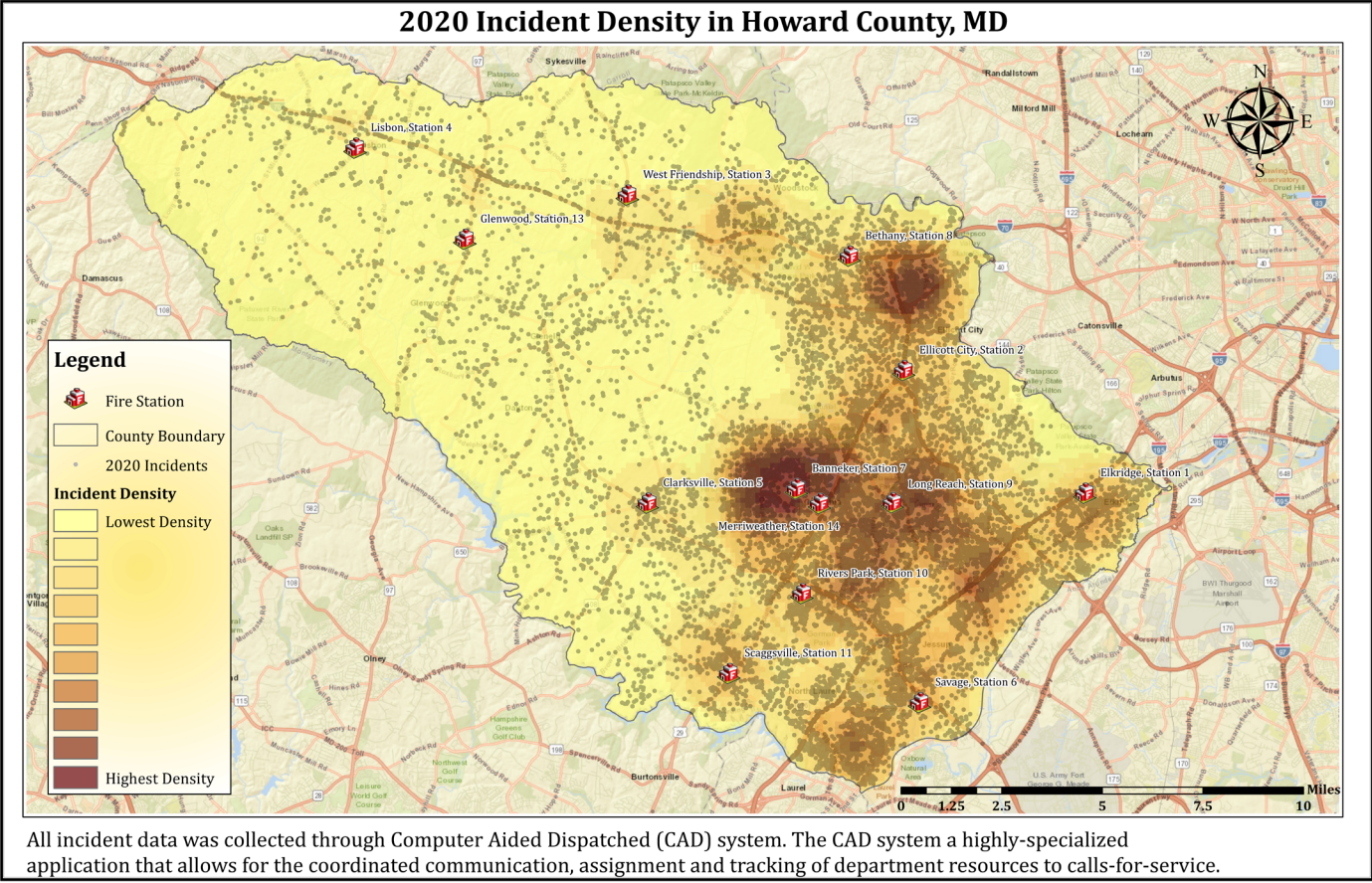
Meritorious Service: Lieutenant Ashley Weber

Bronze Medal of Valor: Lieutenant Brian Eagan and Lieutenant Brad Scott

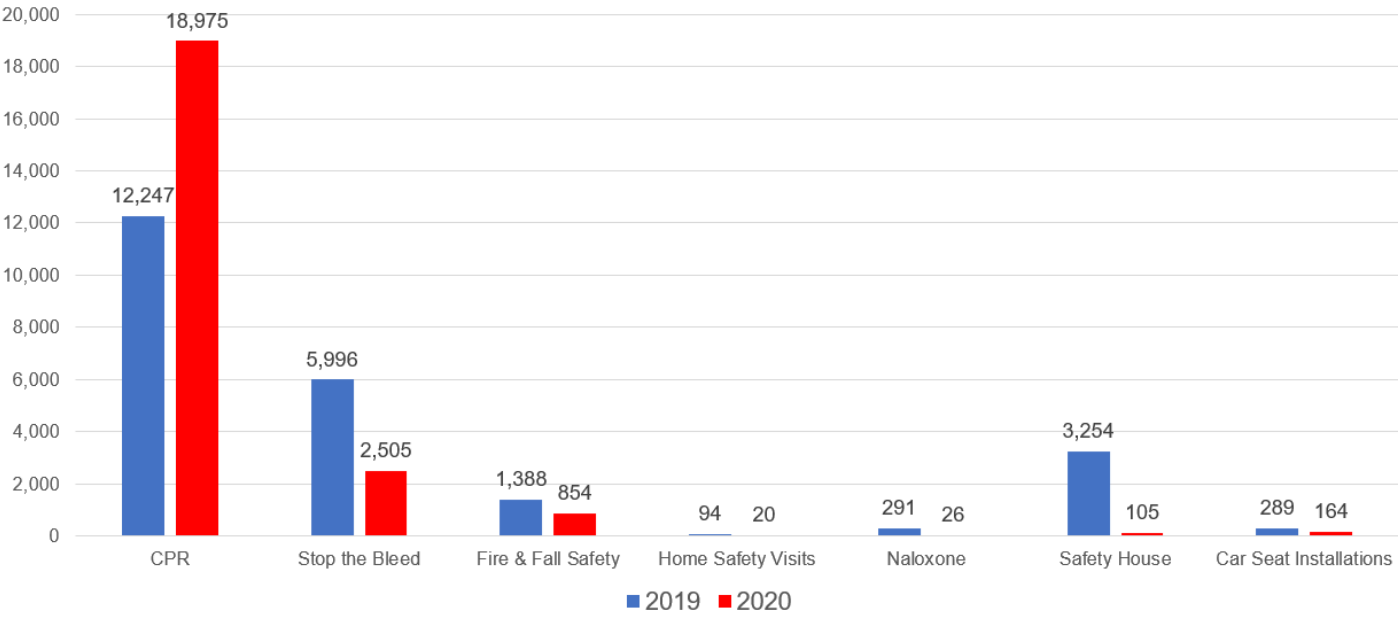
Silver Medal of Valor: Captain Warren Porter, Firefighter Bobby LaBoiteaux, Firefighter/Acting Heavy Vehicle Operator Casey Franz, Firefighter/Paramedic Brandon Schnur, Firefighter Charles O'Donnell, Firefighter/Paramedic Nick Boer, Firefighter/Recruit Yann Nkouandjouo Tchamou, Volunteer Firefighter George Clayton

Lieutenant Nathan Flynn Training Excellence in Company Training Service Award: Lieutenant Josh Burchick

STATISTICS



COMMUNITY OUTREACH INDIVIDUALS EDUCATED



STATISTICS CONTINUED

INCIDENT VOLUME BY STATION

Station 1 - Elkridge

2013: 2,358

2019: 3,292

2020: 2,855

% Change 7 Years: +21.1%

Station 5 - Clarksville

2013: 1,038

2019: 1,401

2020: 1,199

% Change 7 Years: +15.5%

Station 9 - Long Reach

2013: 5,089

2019: 5,750

2020: 5,109

% Change 7 Years: +0.4%

Station 2 - Ellicott City

2013: 4,632

2019: 5,742

2020: 5,008

% Change 7 Years: +8.1%

Station 6 - Savage

2013: 3,400

2019: 4,978

2020: 4,827

% Change 7 Years: +42%

Station 10 - Rivers Park

2013: 2,063

2019: 2,458

2020: 2,141

% Change 7 Years: +3.8%

Station 3 - West Friendship

2013: 1,232

2019: 1,909

2020: 1,668

% Change 7 Years: +35.4%

Station 7 - Banneker

2013: 5,213

2019: 5,832

2020: 4,476

% Change 7 Years: -14.1%

Station 11 - Scaggsville

2013: 1,423

2019: 2,139

2020: 2,099

% Change 7 Years: +47.5%

Station 4 - Lisbon

2013: 811

2019: 1,152

2020: 974

% Change 7 Years: +20.1%

Station 8 - Bethany

2013: 1,765

2019: 2,388

2020: 1,968

% Change 7 Years: +11.5%

Station 13 - Glenwood

2013: 548

2019: 665

2020: 665

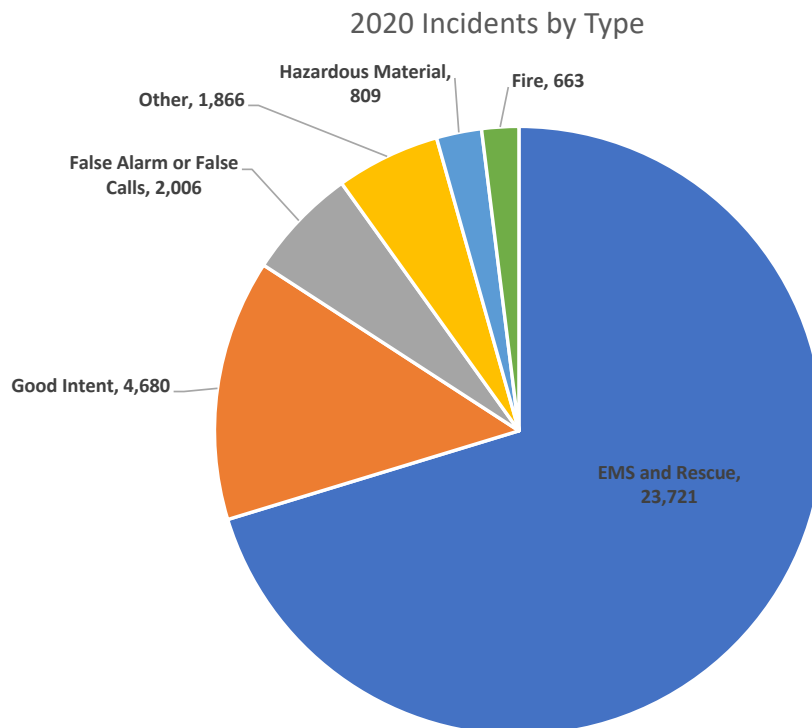
% Change 7 Years: +21.4%

Station 14 - Merriweather

2019: 290

2020: 784

% Change 1 Year: +157.9%





HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES
EDUCATE, PROTECT, AND SERVE.

2201 WARWICK WAY, MARRIOTTSVILLE, MD 21104
(410)313-6000 | HCDFRS.org

